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### Letter from Anna Selig to Mildred Persinger, July 18, 1944

Anna Selig

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INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER  
FOR DEMOCRATIC RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

1010 PARK AVENUE  
(Corner 85th Street)

NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

TEL. BUTterfield 8-4103  
BUTterfield 8-3454

July 18, 1944

Dear Mildred:

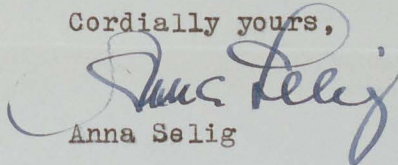
Thank you very much for your letter. I am looking forward very much to seeing you very soon and having a good talk with you. There are some new developments in the making about which I would like to consult you as to your possible cooperation.

It looks as if the sale of our house has again fallen through, but we will know definitely within the next two or three weeks. Nevertheless we are looking for a permanent place, so that we are not forced to hold up the development of our House and Study Program in the middle of the program on account of the short terms of the lease.

Could you plan to be with us at the next Board Meeting on July twenty-sixth at four o'clock? I hope it will be the last meeting of the small Provisional Board. For your information I am enclosing Circular Letter 3 on the house.

Hoping to see you soon associated with our Center and with best personal regards,

Cordially yours,

  
Anna Selig

Mrs. Richard Persinger  
133 Belair Drive  
Dobbs Ferry, New York



Circular Letter No. 3 to Board Members

of the

July 9, 1944

International Study Center

Re: American House of the International Study Center in New York

The plan of the International Study Center from the beginning included the establishment of a permanent American House as a home for its own activities as well as a center for related groups devoted to the cause of international democratic reconstruction.

The inadequate solution of this problem has greatly handicapped the preparatory stage of its development. Though facilities for public lectures were existent in the building at 1010 Park Avenue (corner 85th), it was impossible to secure a long enough lease to justify the considerable investments which would have been necessary for putting the lecture rooms, and particularly the halls of the present building, into working order.

The front building alone was too small to permit the development of the house program, employment of a larger house staff which is indispensable for the opening of the house to the general public. Naturally these limitations imposed on our plans after the expiration of the first long-term lease last fall also limited the further expansion of the self-supporting plan of its organization and finance.

We, therefore, have had to limit ourselves to sharing the house with the United Committee of South-Slav Americans and the meetings of the European American Section of the Free World, the Catholic Committee for International Reconstruction and some other joint groups of Americans and refugees.

The house problem now demands a new solution as we are approaching the time when the American part of the International Study Center should be opened to the wider public in the late fall of 1944.

The present property leased rent-free from the Corporation of the Brick Presbyterian Church is being sold to another church (St. Mathews Lutheran Church), and we have to move out because our new landlord needs this house for purposes of its parish house. We have to move on August 15th unless the pending negotiations result in the extension of our present lease until December 1, 1944, as we have requested.

We need to decide on a new home for the Center. In view of the fact that the members of the Provisional House Committee are absent from New York for several months of the year, the Center's Board and staff took over the administration of the house temporarily. We suggest that a number of new members be elected to the House Committee to solve the house problem of the International Study Center in the immediate future.



July 9, 1944

The proposed new members of the House Committee include: Mr. Eliot Pratt, Mr. William Frasca, Mr. Palferini and Mr. Richard Persinger, Attorneys-at-Law, Anna Selig and Mr. Zlatko Balokovitch, President of the Slav American Congress.

The immediate function of this House Committee would be the following:

- 1) To inspect various buildings in sight for our purpose
- 2) To secure detailed conditions about lease, sale or donation of the buildings
- 3) To take the necessary steps to raise the funds for securing the long-term use of a house and its equipment
- 4) To report the result of their efforts at the next Board Meeting of the International Study Center.

One of the next Circular Letters will present the report and proposals of the new house plan.

May we request the members of the Provisional Board and House Committee to send us your suggestions and mail us your vote on the proposed new members of the house Committee.

Please let us know any additional persons whom you might suggest as members of the House Committee. Proposals should include only persons who might be actively interested in the Center, who are residents of New York during the entire year and are ready to assume active responsibility for the realization of the program of the House as outlined in Memorandum II on the Program and Work of the International Study Center.

Thanking you for your cooperation and hoping to hear from you soon,

Sincerely yours,

Anna Selig

P. S. The sequence of subjects reported in Circular Letters as announced will be changed because of urgent decisions in various matters.